MONTEREY NEWS

November 2009
VOLUME XXXIX · Number 11

The Town

by Sue Protheroe

Cemetery Expansion Overrun

Work has been completed on the expansion of Corashie Cemetery at the intersection of Blue Hill Road and Route 23. The money for the project, $42,000, was on the town warrant two years ago.

The project was handled by the Highway Department, which hired an independent special employee contactor.

Linda Thorpe of the Cemetery Committee attended a Select Board meeting to report that the project had gone $14,630 over budget, because of a new swale required to address drainage issues and more extensive tree cutting than anticipated.

Barbara Gauthier, Town Accountant, attended a later Select Board meeting and said there were three ways to pay an unanticipated overrun: a special town meeting, Reserve Fund money, or having a special town meeting after the money is paid. The Finance Committee is the only town board that can pay this bill from the Reserve Fund.

On the steps of the Monterey Meeting House, Monterey, Massachusetts, on October 24, 350.org's International Day of Climate Action, Monterey folks joined millions of people in 181 countries to show that everybody can do something to combat climate change! See related story p. 6. (Photo Ruth Green)

Dan Moriarty and MaryEllen Brown from the Finance Committee weighed in on the matter, agreeing that it was a large overrun. Both the Select Board and the Finance Committee were concerned that a member of the Cemetery Committee did not attend this meeting.

Concerns were voiced about how the project had been administered and why the Town Accountant was not made aware of the overrun until the final bill was presented.

A motion was made by Finance Committee member Michael Storch to take $15,072.33 out of the Reserve Fund to pay the overrun. The motion was approved unanimously by the Finance Committee.

Barbara Gauthier noted that although the Reserve Fund can be used for this purpose, it will need to be replenished because other accounts are going to need funding.

Highway Matters

Steve Mack and Rob Hoogs of Foresight Land Services met with the Select Board to review their proposal for the engineering work for the Route 23 paving job. Although there were five proposals for this job, the procedure requires that a contractor be chosen and that they then estimate the job cost, which can then be accepted or rejected by the Board. Foresight Land Services was recommended by Director of Operations Maynard Forbes because they are local. The first step is to do an engineering study, which Foresight estimated would cost about $80,000.

If all goes forward, the paving will become a Mass Highway approved project, and is expected to cost about $1.1 million in today's dollars, paid for by the state. The submittals will be in three stages: for completion percentages of 25%, 75% and final, and will require a public comment period.

The money for the engineering study, $80,000, will be coming out of the Highway Department's Chapter 90 money. Steve Mack explained that if the town already has the engineering plans, it will be moved up more quickly on the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) list, even if it isn't approved by the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the "Stimulus Program"). See related story, p. 7.)

Maynard Forbes said that a resurfacing of Route 23 will last about fifteen or twenty years, providing it is maintained.

A motion was unanimously approved by the Select Board and the Finance Committee to fund the engineering study at $80,000, to come out of the Chapter 90 money, as Maynard Forbes recommended.

After two and a quarter inches of rain, the new drainage on Fairview Road was in good shape. A culvert collapsed on Beartown Mountain Road.

Transfer Station

The town has received a notice from the state that the transfer station has been operating without a permit and is in noncompliance. The permit was good for ten years, and the town offices have not received any notice that it was expiring; ten years ago when the permit was issued, there were different people in the town offices. This situation is being addressed. Several other towns, including Otis, Mt. Washington, and Stockbridge, are in the same boat.

A complaint was received stating that the transfer station attendants refused the request of a woman who needed assistance due to physical limitations and were rude to her. The Select Board has received several other complaints that the attendant has refused and even heckled residents. They will send a letter to the Transfer Station Manager to inform the Master Garbologist that the new policy to be followed by the attendant is that if assistance is requested by a properly stickered resident the attendant is to help.

G. E. MUNSON SATELLITE

DISH NETWORK
DIRECTV
HD ANTENNA SYSTEMS
HOME THEATER & STEREO SYSTEMS

call or fax George
(413) 258-4887
email: munsonsat@aol.com
P.O. Box 923, Monterey, MA 01255
(fully insured)

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Every Community Has At Least One REALTOR® Like Nancy Kalodner.

(In the Berkshires, it's Nancy Kalodner.)

413-528-9595
nancybenchmark@verizon.net

BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

Other Town Matters

The Park Commission is looking for volunteers to help set up the Monterey ice hockey rink in the firehouse pavilion at ten a.m. sharp on Saturday, November 28. Please plan to be on time, as it should take less than ninety minutes. The Park Commission will be serving coffee and doughnuts!

Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier announced at the October 26th Select Board meeting that she wishes to retire by April 30, or sooner if her replacement is already qualified in town government. Barbara was hired by the town in November 1989. A job description and announcement/ad will be in the *Monterey News* and the *Berkshire Eagle*.

The Town Hall will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, for Veteran's Day, and Thursday, November 26, for Thanksgiving.

The next free health screening sponsored by CHP will be on Tuesday, November 17, from 10 a.m. till noon at Town Hall. Please call Luci Leonard at 413-644-0104 x 15 for more information.

The Select Board held a classification hearing with Assessors Clerk Donald Clawson to set the tax rate. A single tax rate of 5.35 is being recommended, and the levy capacity is at $213,133.93. (The current tax rate is 5.21) The residential value in town is over $4 million. The Board approved the proposed single tax rate of 5.35, and signed the required paperwork.

Town Clerk Linda Thorpe came in to apprise the Select Board members of the new ethics law. A senior official needs to be designated to be sure that all town employees have taken the ethics online test and been provided with a copy of the ethics laws. The test (25 questions) needs to be taken every two years. The Board designated Thorpe as the town liaison under the new ethics requirements.

Steve Enoch was named to the Planning Board.

Maynard Forbes

Fire Chief Ray Tryon talks with Chief Michael Tirrell of Windsor and his wife, while other guests enjoy the food and festivities at the October 17th Firemen's Ball.

Cultural Council

The Monterey Cultural Council received thirty-seven grant applications, and the final award decisions will be made in January. We are allowed $4,000 from the state for cultural grants.

Because the application deadline has passed, it was agreed that the idea of cooperating with other towns would be tabled until next year.

An Artists Open House will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Artists can either exhibit in their own studios or in the Meetinghouse basement. (See story, p. 8.) Wendy Jensen will prepare a map to the open studios; Lynne Leavitt will be responsible for the exhibitors in >

Century 21

Franklin Street Associates

Dagmar Kubes

Broker associate
Superior Real-Estate service
according to your needs.

SELL * BUY * RENT
Free Market Analysis

Monterey: 413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

Serving Monterey for over 20 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

the Meetinghouse, and refreshments will be provided by the General Store. (Lynne Leavitt has been appointed to a three-year term on the Cultural Council.)

Lake Matters

Drawdown of Lake Garfield started on the fifteenth of October. Maynard Forbes has observed the water levels going toward Hartsville and has noticed no significant difference.

Lake Buel and Lake Garfield pages are under construction on the Monterey Town website. Please email three of your three favorite lake pictures to townofmont@verizon.net with descriptions and a notation as to who took the pictures. We still need pictures of Lake Buel!

General Store Liquor License

After having applied for a liquor license some time ago, owner Ken Bassler was notified that his license would not be granted because of outstanding tax bills by the previous owner Riccardo Boehm.

Monterey Land Trust

Alan Salamon of the Monterey Land Trust came to the Select Board Meeting to report that Mark Firth and Bettina Schwartz, prospective buyers of Chestnut Hill Farm, a 78-acre property on Route 23, are exploring a preservation restriction on the farm in conjunction with the Monterey Land Trust. Although three and a half acres will be used for buildings, the rest of the land will be reserved for agriculture.

The Land Trust will provide a grant of $100,000 to assist in the sale, after the approval of the Select Board and the proper sale and transfer of title to the property.

The Land Trust promotes agriculture in the Town of Monterey, and maintains the rural nature of the town.

Police Matters

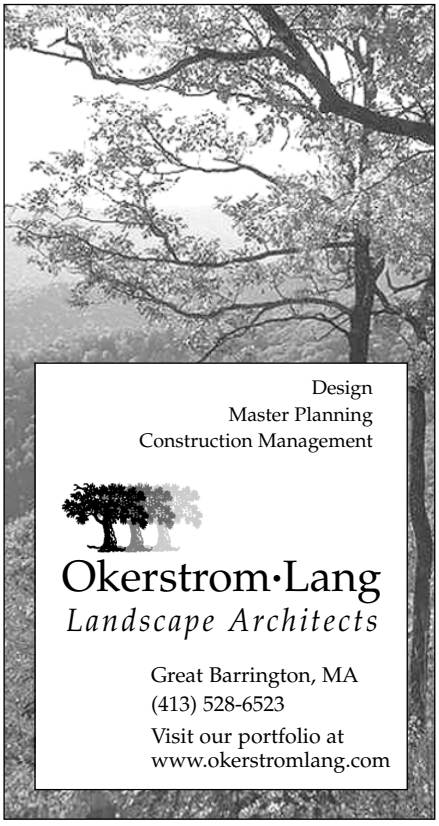
- Breaking and entering on Point Road—party used key under the mat, opened sliding glass door, took flat screen TV, and put key back under the mat.
- Motor vehicle hit telephone pole on Sandisfield Road; driving under the influence.
- Tree across power lines on Fairview Road.
- Dog bit man who was on bike; matter referred to the Animal Control Officer.
- Summons; Mt. Hunger Road.
- Assisted a resident with flat tire.
- Reviewed meeting that discussed how swine flu vaccines will be distributed.

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reports that because driver's license renewal reminders are no longer being sent in the mail, he has found several drivers with expired licenses. To avoid a ticket for driving with an expired license, go to https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/RMVReminder/intro.aspx at least 45 days before your license expires, and a reminder will be sent.

Animal Control Officer

Board of Health members Robert Annelli, Stephen Enoch, and John Makuc met with the Select Board to discuss a situation involving the Animal Control Officer, Nora Hayes. Hayes has been dealing with a year-long situation in which dogs were staked outside without water or shelter on Main Road and recently received a complaint about it, which required her to make a site visit; the dogs seemed to be in good health with the owners taking responsibility. The dog owner's veterinarian sent a fax to Town Hall confirming the animals were in good health.

Although the actions of the Animal Control Officer were proper, the boards agreed that if the situation had been handled a little differently, animosity could have been avoided.



ABC
Allentuck Building Company
Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services
in Southern Berkshire County
Home Repair Made as Simple as ABC
Josh Allentuck:
413-329-6260
Prioritize your home repair needs...
Just say HELP!

Woodburning Safety

Winter is fast approaching, which means many of us will turn to burning wood for heat. If done safely this can provide us with a nice economical way to stay warm, but if done dangerously it can be disastrous, causing loss of life and property. As one person recently described it, you are essentially starting a fire in your house and you need to make sure it stays contained.

Now is the time to get prepared for the heating season. You should inspect your entire system for problems. A good thorough cleaning (and inspection) of the chimney or flu is of utmost importance. Periodic inspections and cleaning throughout the heating season are also important. If there is any doubt, call a professional. Not only can a chimney or flu deteriorate, it can also become choked with flammable creosote, leading to a dangerous chimney fire.

Operate your wood-burning unit appropriately. Whether it is a fireplace, a wood stove, a pellet stove or some other type of unit they all have limits on what is safe to do with them. When possible read and follow the owner's manual on what to do and what not to do. Be extra careful if you will be leaving the operating unit on when you are not at home. Clean it regularly, and remember that ashes can remain hot for quite some time. Transport them in a nonflammable container and remove them from the house immediately. Do not put them next to anything flammable. Take extra precautions if there are young children in the house; burns can happen in an instant.

Use common sense. Check your smoke detectors, change the batteries regularly, and do not ignore their warning. Have a practiced evacuation plan for the family.

If you believe you have an emergency problem, then call 911 right away. The Monterey Fire Department is always ready and willing to respond to your emergencies. A few minutes can mean a big difference in the outcome.

— John Makuc, Firefighter 1-2

Lake Garfield Zebra Mussel Survey Results

We received notification that a survey of Lake Garfield done for the Department of Conservation and Recreation found no zebra mussels, but found a native population of two species of freshwater mussels — it is GOOD to have these natives. In addition, the survey found seven species of native snails. This means our lake has a healthy balance of native shellfish.

This newly reported survey confirms our recent zebra trap finding of no zebra infestation at this time.

Good boat hygiene for all boats — including kayaks — and water equipment is necessary. This means that washing the boat (including the anchor and chain), emptying holding tanks, and drying out the boat between trips to different lakes should maintain a non-infested Garfield.

— Pat Edelstein,
Friends of Lake Garfield

350: Grassroots Political Action Matters!

On Saturday, October 24, people in 181 countries came together for the most widespread day of environmental action in the planet's history, organized by Bill McKibben's 350.org. At over 5200 events around the world, people gathered to call for strong action and bold leadership on the climate crisis.

Powerful responses came in from the first world leaders who were officially sent pictures of the gatherings around the world, including the one in Monterey (see photo p. 1). Here's what Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the UN said:

"I would like to thank the millions of people in 181 countries who participated in 350.org's Day of Climate Action on 24 October. It was one of the most inspiring examples of grassroots political action on global warming the world has ever witnessed. This Day of Climate Action came at a critical time in the global negotiations, and demonstrated that people around the world — from Ethiopia to India, Paraguay to the United States — understand the scientific challenge the world faces. I encourage governments to heed the example set by their citizens, and to take strong action in Copenhagen to address this crisis through bold, visionary leadership."

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Join the Friends of The Library!

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
Wednesday .....3–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Eric Pedersen Construction

Well versed in all aspects of fine construction & traditional restoration
Accomplished & resourceful craftsman
Specializing in wood, stone & classic timberframe homes & barns

413 822-1510 or 528-3594
Over 30 yrs in & around Monterey
eric7inc@gmail.com

CSL#089323 / HIC#144849 / reg. MA Sawyer

Dr. Ruth Engo to Speak at November Potluck

The October Potluck Dinner was a huge success, with over thirty-five people in attendance and Dr. Richard Edelstein actually making us understand a little of Einstein's amazing discoveries concerning relativity. Thanks so much to Richard for his great presentation, and to everyone who helped set up, clean up, and tear down the tables.

For the November Potluck, we have Dr. Ruth Engo, former Senior Economic Affairs Officer for Africa at the UN, and founder and Chief Executive of African Action on AIDS. During the past year, she has made several trips to the village of Ngalla, Cameroon, to deliver bed nets purchased by Monterey residents and to conduct informational and experiential workshops for children and adults in the village. Ruth will speak with us about Ngalla, her vision for developing a network of villages that she calls Centers of Excellence, and the role that Monterey, as a sister village, might play in supporting Ngalla on its journey to becoming one of those centers.

Ruth is a warmhearted and inspiring speaker with a wealth of knowledge and wisdom. As we move forward in developing a working partnership and cultural exchange, we welcome this opportunity to hear what Ruth can tell us about the people, culture, infrastructure, and vision of the Ngalla community.

Monterey Library Notes

We're having several events this month you should know about. First, on Saturday, November 14, at 10:30 a.m., Denise Andrus will read a story about Thanksgiving and lead the children in a craft. Come on down and take part.

Second, on Saturday, November 21, at 10 a.m., it's the Magnificent Moxie! Come help Moxie, the Kerry blue terrier, perform her tricks: flips, fetches, and more! Read a book to Moxie after the performance. She loves listening to stories. Moxie is a certified good dog that specializes in being read to by young readers, especially beginners.

Finally, on Monday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m., the adult book discussion group will meet and discuss *Homer and Langley* by E.L. Doctorow. This small but dedicated group has had some engaging discussions as of late—you don't need to register in advance, just read the book and show up.

Thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library for helping to open the library for Monterey's Trick or Treat hours—this group has been very active in helping out the library by raising funds, advocating for the library, and volunteering to help out as we expand our programs and services. The Monterey Library has always been better for the volunteers who have helped and the patrons who have contributed money to better our small library, and now that the Friends have organized they are keeping up with the growing use of our library. As director I will say that the busier the library becomes—and with over 25,000 transactions in the last fiscal year, usage has skyrocketed—the Monterey Library will depend more than ever on the Friends of the Library to help fill the needs of this town. If you missed the initial call to membership, it's not too late—the Friends are just getting started and look to be around for a long time.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 18 in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

Mad Scot
Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

GREEN ARTS GARDEN DESIGN

Accredited Organic Land Care Professional
Certified Horticulturist

Design—Installation—Maintenance

Ruth Green
PO Box 974, Monterey, MA 01245

www.greenartsgardendesign.com
413-528-5908

The Life Cycle and Restoration of the Atlantic Salmon

presentation by Jim Carrol
of Connecticut River Salmon Association

November 14, 2009, 1:30 PM
Berkshire National Fish Hatchery
140 Hatchery Road, New Marlborough, MA

Hatchery tours to follow presentation.
Free Admission Refreshments
sponsored by Berkshire Hatchery Foundation & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Town of Monterey Seeks Part-Time Accountant

The Town of Monterey is seeking qualified applicants for the part-time position of Town Accountant. The Town Accountant will perform all duties in accordance with applicable Massachusetts General Laws, town policies, town bylaws, and relevant state, federal, and local regulations and standards. Applicants must possess the advanced knowledge, skills, ability and progressive experience necessary to serve as the Town Accountant. Requirements include experience in finance/accounting and automated accounting systems and an associate's degree in business administration, accounting, or a related field. Municipal accounting experience is helpful but not required. The position requires that you be available during the normal Town Hall operating hours and monthly reporting to the Select Board at their Monday evening meetings. Resumes and letters of interest should be sent to: Monterey Select Board, P.O. Box 308 Monterey, MA 01245 Re: Accountant **by November 30, 2009.** The Town of Monterey is an equal opportunity employer.

MONTERREY

GENERAL STORE

Serving Monterey
for over 200 years

Take-Out Lunch & Dinner
Baked Goods, Pies, etc.

Route 23, Monterey
Phone 528-4437; FAX 528-2889
Web Site: montereystore.com
Hours
Mon–Ths: 7:30 am–6:00 pm
Friday: 7:30 am–9:00 pm
Sat: 7:30 am–4:00 pm
Sunday, 8:00 am–2:00 pm

Maynard Forbes

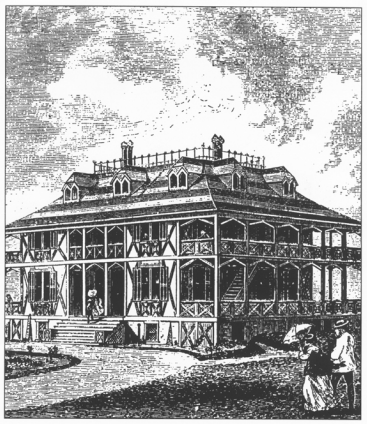
Downed tree on Route 23 in August knocked out power and started small brush fire.

Resurfacing Main Road

The Select Board has hired Foresight Engineering to draw up engineering plans for resurfacing Route 23 in the Town of Monterey. The town has applied for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Stimulus Program) to resurface the entire 7.14 miles of Main Road. The two requirements are that it be on the Massachusetts TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) list and that the engineering be complete for a spring advertisement for work next summer. The project will be administered through the new Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The TIP list is normally funded by the federal government through the state by way of local Metropolitan Planning Organizations(MPOs).

If Monterey is not awarded a Stimulus Grant, it will have the engineering done so it can move up on the TIP list and be ready to be funded through the normal channels. This is the same program that funded the new bridge on River Road and Main Road in Tyringham. The cost of the engineering work is approximately $79,000 and will be funded by Chapter 90 money provided by the state and used for road construction, equipment, and engineering. The cost of resurfacing Route 23 is estimated to be $1.1 million dollars today. There is some drainage work to be done before resurfacing that will be paid for out of the Town Highway Capital account and with Chapter 90 money.

— Maynard Forbes,
Director of Operations, Dept. of
Highways, Buildings, and Properties



For those who believe a second home should still be first class

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
real estate
www.berkshiresforsale.com
413.528.4859

Please Respect Our Cemeteries

Lyman M. Fargo was born on February 8, 1797, and died on April 15, 1890. He was 93 years, 2 months and 7 days old. One of 9 children, he was the last of the Moses Fargo family.

In their grief his family chose to honor him with a simple headstone and, as was the tradition of that time, also a footstone. Over time the footstone was lost in the woods, but it was recently rediscovered in the course of our Corashire Cemetery expansion project. It was placed temporarily near his headstone until such time as it could be reinstalled at the base of his grave.

I tell you this story now because recently I found Lyman Fargo's footstone crudely propped up on a newer grave, and on the back was scratched in another name and numbers!

I understand that grief causes us to do strange things but this is VANDALISM and against the law.

Please be respectful of our (and all) cemeteries. Remember, each and every grave was once a living person surrounded by family and friends. Their grief was as strong then as yours is now.

— Linda Thorpe,
Monterey Cemetery Committee

Gould Farm
Since 1913
We Harvest Hope

Gould Farm Products
at the
Roadside Store
& Harvest Barn

You come to our tables ... take us to yours!

Gift baskets available
Call 644-9718

Open Studio Artists & Artisans Tour December 5

On Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Monterey Meetinghouse and studios throughout Monterey will be open to give everyone a chance to see what the numerous artists in Monterey are doing and where their creativity is brought to fruition. You will also be able to support these local artists by selecting meaningful gifts for the approaching holiday season.

The Monterey Cultural Council will publish a map to guide you to the studios and will also set up display space in the Meetinghouse basement or in other studios for artists who have no practical studio.

If you have a studio in Monterey that you would like to open, or if you can show or perform your art or craft on December 5, please contact Monterey Cultural Council members John Heffernan, jeh111@juno.com, 644-9235, or Wendy Jensen, wendygj@gmail.com, 528-4007.

Help Set Up Ice Rink

Calling all citizens! The Monterey ice hockey rink will be up the Saturday after Thanksgiving at 10 am. That's Saturday, November 28. It's less than a 90-minute effort when we have help. Please plan to be there by 10. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided by the Park Commission. A cordless drill is helpful but not necessary. Look forward to seeing you and some sub-10-degree ice-making nights again soon.

— Monterey Park Commission

ZBA Alternate Seat Vacancy

The Town of Monterey has a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals for an Alternate. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis. Interested parties must be a registered voter of Monterey. The term will run for the remainder of the five-year term, which expires June 30, 2010. Any interested parties should submit a letter of interest to the Zoning Board of Appeals P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

ROBERTS WOODS FARM
Icelandic Horses

✳ Lessons for All Levels and Ages
✳ Therapeutic Riding
✳ Equine Assisted Psychotherapy
✳ Beartown Riding Excursions

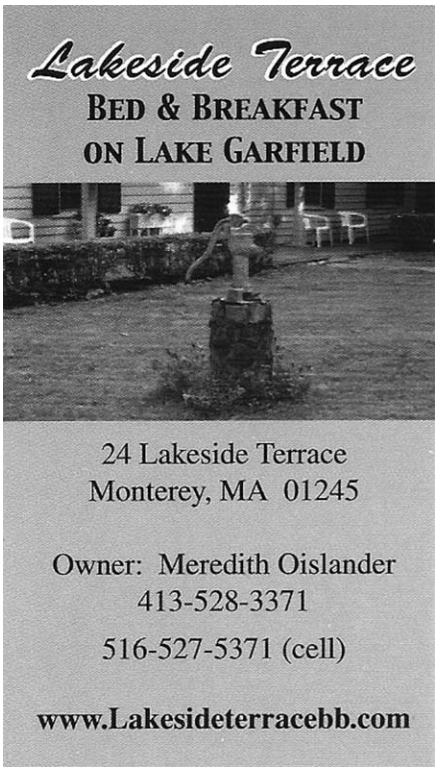
Elizabeth Timlege, Certified Instructor
Esther Heffernan, Program Director
413-644-9235 • 45 Art School Road
Monterey MA 01245

Bidwell House Colonial Thanksgiving Party

The beautiful 1750 Georgian salt-box residence of the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell will be decked out in forest greenery and harvest decorations for the Bidwell House Museum's third annual winter fundraising party, Our Colonial Holiday of Thanksgiving, on Saturday, November 28 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Board of Directors invites all friends, neighbors, and members to this Thanksgiving celebration. A bonfire, luminaires, and lanterns will light the way to the historic house, where guests can enjoy a holiday get-together in Reverend Bidwell's own parlors. Charles McTavish and a friend will play music on violin and guitar, and delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will be served. To be a guest in these rooms is a rare and special opportunity, one that we like to share with the community for this special event. A silent auction will feature beautiful gifts and treasures for lively bidding by all.

Support your very own colonial history museum and join your friends and neighbors at this authentic New England party. Tickets are $35. Please call 413-528-6888 to reserve yours.



Updates & Reminders from Monterey Town Hall

There is still one vacant seat on the Monterey Planning Board. Meetings are the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Interested parties must be a registered voter of Monterey, MA. The term will run until the next town election in May 2010. Interested parties should send a letter of interest to both the Monterey Planning Board and Monterey Select Board at P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

The following Select-Board-appointed committees have openings:

Agricultural Commission: two 2-yr. seats.
Council on Aging: one 3-yr. seat.
Historical Commission: one 3-yr. seat.
Town Report Committee: one 3-yr. seat.

Please send letters of interest to the Monterey Select Board at P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

Lake Garfield and Lake Buel pages are under construction now on the town website and we are still looking for any scenic pictures of each of the lakes anyone might have that can be posted on the website. Please e-mail up to 3 of your favorite pictures with a description of each to townmont@verizon.net; please also note who took the picture so that proper credit can be given in the description. We have received quite a few for Lake Garfield but none for Lake Buel.

The Department of Motor Vehicles has a new license renewal reminder service. Mailed reminders are being replaced with electronic reminders sent by e-mail, text message or phone message. Drivers must sign up at least 45 days before the expiration of their license or Massachusetts ID to receive a reminder at least 30 days before the expiration date. To sign up, go to: https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/RMVReminder/intro.aspx.

The next free health screening sponsored by CHP will be on Tuesday, November 17, from 10 a.m. to noon in the town offices. Please call Luci Leonard at 413-644-0104 x15 for more information.

Lake Garfield drawdown began on October 15 and will end on February 15, 2010. Please remember that docks should have been removed prior to the drawdown to prevent any damage. The town is not responsible for damage to personal docks. Any questions regarding drawdown should be directed to Maynard Forbes, Director of Operations, at 528-1734.

Don't forget to sign up for e-mail notifications on the website for things like board minutes, agendas, legal notices, town events, and much more. Just go to www.montereyma.gov and click on the "subscribe to news" button in the bottom right-hand corner of the page and then follow the instructions. If you don't see something on the website that you think may be useful, please send an e-mail with your suggestions to townmont@verizon.net

— Melissa Noe,
Interdepartmental Secretary

HEBERT REALTY INC.
"Condos to Castles"

LINDA HEBERT *Broker*
CBR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES

From the Backroads to the Main Road, Linda really knows Monterey. If you're thinking of buying or selling your Monterey home, please call for your free personal, knowledgeable consultation.

Office (413) 528-3440
Fax (413) 528-1588
Cell (413) 717-0067
E-mail: hebertrlty@aol.com

P.O. Box 924, Monterey, MA 01245
20 Stockbridge Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230
www.HebertRealty.com

LakeFest 2009 as Seen through the Eyes of Kids (and Kids' Cameras)

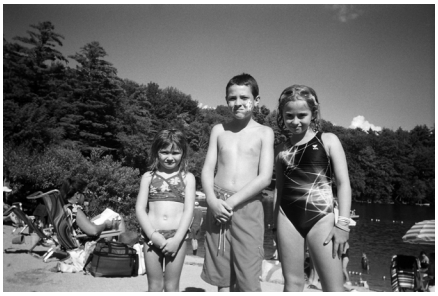
Claudia Martin (☝); Jake Savitt (☞)

Jessica Weber (☝); Ann Gero (☞)

Julia Minogue (☝); Alex Rodriguez (☞)

Isabella Prince (☝); Mia Minogue (☞)

Kevin Russell (☝); Nicole Schneider (☞)



Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with

KIT PATTEN

Lotus Palm School Certified

"The best massage I ever had." – E.D., Monterey

413-528-3798

Books That Balance

Full Charge Bookkeeping Services

✓ Professional
✓ Experienced
✓ Reliable

Darlene Balestro
10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington, MA 01230
413-528-3944 or 413-446-4547
booksthatbalance@yahoo.com

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
528-5850

Therese Russell (☝); Brian Lentz (☙)

Sam S (☝); Helene Busansky (☙)

Collette Goggin (☝); Marthe Schwan (☙)

Nadia Makuc (☝); Chandlor (☙)

Natalia Soborski (☝); Marya Makuc (☞)

Compassion in Motion
Ellen Russo, Holistic Practitioner

Group Practice Open House
Thursday, Nov. 5, 5:30–7 PM
777 S. Main St., Gt. Barrington
Back of Gt. Barrington Bagel

Food, Drink, Demos, Meet Our Group!
Randi Haskins, PT
Bette Bussell, LMT
Ellen Russo, Trager® Practitioner
Ethan Dufault, Psychotherapist
and Personal Best Open Studio

413-644-0148
receivepeace@gmail.com
www.compassioninmotion.com

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 32 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA

Eileen Lawlor, LICSW

An Action-Oriented Therapist
Specializing in:
Short-Term Hypnosis • EMDR
Guided Imagery for Healing
Grief, Loss and Transition Counseling

Call 413.528.7916 for appointment

Monterey Community Center

During one of our many recent heavy rainfalls, I was working inside the Wilson-McLaughlin House, cleaning up debris, leftover spruce cones from a red squirrel larder, and years' accumulations of dust and cobwebs. It occurred to me that we have opened a new chapter in the long life of that building.

One fact about the house is that we don't know, really, very many details of its history. Cynthia Weber's research into the dusty records of Monterey has revealed that Barnabus Bidwell built the house around 1825 somewhere in the vicinity of the "Parade Grounds" on Beartown Mountain Road, where Monterey's second town center was located. Then, when the town center migrated south a couple of miles, so did Barnabus and his house in about 1850. Picture if you can, teams of oxen pulling the house across snowy tracks and fields, up and down the grades, to the current location at the head of New Marlborough Road. What a feat! The builders of those days had no hydraulics or engines, just ingenuity, hand tools, and lots of horse- and ox-power.

B. Bidwell built a stout stone foundation for his house and placed it well, on the brow of a knob with a glorious southeast aspect. He benefited from the morning sunshine and inspiring ridge view. And his hand-dug well was just a few steps out the back door.

More about the successive inhabitants of the house in later columns, but now we can jump to the late 1940s, when Edith Wilson and Marjorie McLaughlin purchased the place. They later built on an addition, which housed a large kitchen, living room, and studio; by this time the town water line ran past the top of their land, and a pipe brought water to the house.

After Edith bequeathed the house and the 28 acres to the town in 1995, the addition was in such need of repair that it was in fact most practical just to remove it. Since then the inhabitants of Barnabus's original farmhouse have been rodents, birds, and insects, and the place has weathered.

The new roof structure and shingling, completed this summer by Edelman Contractors, gives the house a new lease on life. The lines are straightened up and tightened, and this year's rain is not getting inside, which could not be said of last year's rain.

As the home of the Monterey Community Center, the Wilson-McLaughlin place will be an ideal location for many, many functions and events. Of course it will be some time before the building renovation is complete—we'll need to start with fundraising, for instance—but the big news for the town is that we are working up a plan to create a community garden on the land starting in spring of 2010. Look for more details during the winter; you can borrow seed catalogs from your neighbors so you can get your seed orders in early and be ready.

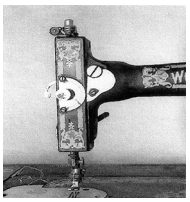
— Joe Baker

Otis Library Pancake Breakfast Nov. 7

The annual Otis Library and Museum all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast will be held on November 7 from 8–11 a.m. at the Farmington River Elementary School on Route 8 in Otis. The event celebrates Veterans Day, and veterans get to eat all the pancakes, sausage, and drinks that they can stomach, free of charge. For others, the cost is $4.99 for adults and $3.99 for students and seniors. Children under 5 are free.

Proceeds from the event, and a 50/50 raffle, will be used for new computers, extended library hours, new books, DVDs, high-speed Internet access, and new library technology.

Patchwork
by Pat Nourse
181 Main Road, Monterey
413-644-9530



32" x 43" Youth Quilts
38" x 60" Adult Quilts
American Girl doll dresses

Gary J. O'Brien
Property Services
Quality, friendly, reliable service
Commercial & residential

References available

Fully insured

- Lawn care
- Storm damage cleanup
- Caretaking
- Asphalt sweeping, stripping
- Field/brush mowing
- Drives installed
- Spring cleanup
- Landscaping
- Snowplowing & snow removal
- Excavation/trenching
- Hydroseeding-setting
- Barn mulch/topsoil/stone

Now offering full season set rates for lawn care & snowplowing
413-441-1357

Yoga Within

Connie Wilson
Certified Yoga Instructor
413-528-3798
email: yogawithin@hotmail.com
Group Classes ~ Private Sessions
Gift Certificates Available

Monterey Personal Notes

Lauren Andrus, the daughter of Rick and Denise Andrus was inducted into the National Honor Society on October 15, 2009. Lauren is a junior at Lee High School. She is the granddaughter of Thomas and Patricia Andrus and niece of Daniel Andrus, all of Monterey.

Douglas Michael Champigny was inducted into the Alpha Chi National Honor Society on October 24 at Massachusetts College for Liberal Arts.

Veterans Day in Monterey

All veterans, friends, families, and neighbors are invited to attend a brief celebration of Veterans Day at 10:45 a.m. on the Monterey Meetinghouse steps on Wednesday, November 11.

This day was originally called Armistice Day in memory of the end of WW 1. The name was changed on June 1, 1954 to Veterans Day in honor of ALL veterans of the United States. Come and join us.

— Dean P. Amidon, Chairman,
Veterans Memorial Committee

ॐ

November: in school

She will judge no judgments
today
nor turn this child's arguments
away
outside the classroom window
with flaming breath
autumn just sold
gold counterfeit
to death
the sinner and the sinned against
spring and fall
the years implacably
consuming all
the teacher and the taught
seem strangely yearning
for the wistful wisdom
of last leaves
burning
but she can judge no judgments
not one today

she must attend an elegy
to innocence
in grey.

— A. O. Howell

Century 21
Hometown Associates

Gile Real Estate &
Century 21 Hometown Assoc
A WINNING TEAM
Providing Professional, Ethical,
Personal services
for all your Real Estate Needs.

Beth Van Ness,
Associate Broker
ABR, CBR, CRS, LMC
(Cell) 413-441-9490
Beth.GileTeam@Gmail.com
www.BethVanNess.com

❊

DENNIS J. DOWNING
Attorney at Law

❊

17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-5040
Facsimile: (413) 528-5095
Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net

BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS.COM

413 528 6800

REAL ESTATE SALES
MARKETING
LEASING & RENTALS
MANAGEMENT
DEVELOPMENT

12 RAILROAD ST
GREAT BARRINGTON

TIM LOVETT
JENNIFER HARVEY–MONTANO
JENNIFER LALLY TOM LYNCH
DEBORAH LEVINSON
SHEA POTOSKI CINDY WELCH

INFO@BERKSHIREPROPERTYAGENTS.COM

Letter from Washington

A "Newbie" Chef

Many of you may already know this about me, but I lack cooking skills. Some of my friends are gifted, others fall into a category of "fending for themselves," but a number of individuals in my generation lack any semblance of actual skill. I am one of these poor unfortunate souls. One can always learn, and it is better late than never to get around to practicing. When I was in school, the food was amazing and always present; there were no dishes, and I never had to plan in time for preparing or cleaning up around mealtime. Spoiled? Sure, but I had plenty of other things to do that kept me busy for four years.

Now, it comes down to the simple fact that if I want to eat relatively well-balanced meals, I have to plan and execute it on my own. The good news is that I love planning; the bad news is that I'm still a little shaky on the edible creation aspect.

I decided to start with the fun part, weekly menus and shopping lists. It seems to be the rare person who finds that an incentive to get going on a project, but I've long since given up figuring this quirk out. I made a menu, then created my shopping list, and threw in some kitchen staples for good measure. I also added a list of frozen foods, and not just the occasional easy dinner emergencies; I included shrimp, turkey burgers, tilapia, and some bags of frozen vegetables for the days when the broccoli and squash go bad unexpectedly.

My goals regarding menus and meals are fairly straightforward, but not necessarily easy to fulfill. First, I don't want to spend money for lunch or dinners on a regular basis. This means I do not buy lunch; occasionally I will if I go out with a friend or colleague, and I have been known to if I oversleep. DC is not cheap, and on my stipend I'd sooner save for other stuff. Several things need to be taken into account, but the first and most important is that leftovers are ideal. The second is that salads may seem like a good choice, if you take into account the need for dressing, and the fact that you probably will still be hungry when you're done with it. I've accounted for both, I keep salad dressing in the office, and I grille chicken or shrimp on the weekends to add to salads. Cheese sandwiches are another ideal choice; they are easy to prepare in the morning, and with a healthy dinner it is perfectly legitimate. A third choice: brown rice, a steamed veggie, and lemon pepper chicken. This is a meal that I always make ahead of time on Sunday, and usually I make enough for two lunches.

I also try to take care of dinners on the weekend, as much as possible. I like to try for well balanced as a rule. Generally when I get home, I never want to spend more than twenty-five minutes preparing food; I am too tired to want to take the time, and I relish my laziness in the evenings (most nights include a TV show now that I have no homework). I can make fajitas, and since the tortillas and spices come in a kit, it is really about cooking up chicken, onions, and peppers in the frying pan. The time required is barely under the deadline, so having them as leftovers is easier. Pasta, salad, and garlic bread (frozen and put in the toaster) is another easy combination, especially if the pasta is already cooked and the salad fixings are relatively ready to go. Turkey burgers, salad, and potatoes (or fries) are pretty easy, so long as you take the burgers and roll out to thaw in the morning, and the potatoes should be boiled on the weekend to save time there. Once a week I eat at a friend's house with her and her parents, so that takes Tuesday nights out of the mix for the most part. Soon I'll probably venture into shepherd's pie or meatloaf (winter meals), macaroni and cheese, and those other hot dishes that will keep all week. One night I had rice, steamed squash, and shrimp, which took about forty-five minutes because of the rice; with already cooked rice, it'd be about twenty minutes.

The budget is about fifty dollars a week, and I just discovered a Trader Joe's four blocks from the office, so I probably will shop there on Thursday afternoon and get the basics relatively cheaply: fresh

Wayne Dunlop was on hand early last summer to see an adult great blue heron feeding a four-week-old.

vegetables and whatnot. I get coffee every morning and budgeted about ten to twelve dollars for that. The roundtrip in and out of DC (including the bus) is approximately ten dollars, and I go in five or six times a week. Then I usually go out twice a week and have drinks with friends, but happy hours are pretty affordable in the Dupont area. I also have dinner out about once a week.

I'm happy that I can almost always eat what I cook now, and that I haven't gone hungry yet. The more confidence I gain, the more I will branch out and try new things. Maybe someday I'll even say I can cook.

— Tarsi Dunlop

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

The Yes Men at Nov. 20 WBCR Benefit

Berkshire Community Radio and Berkshire International Film Festival will co-present a screening of The Yes Men Fix the World, followed by a Q&A with anticorporate pranksters The Yes Men (Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonanno) on Friday, November, 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. The event is a fundraiser for WBCR-LP, 97.7 FM, the volunteer-based, noncommercial, community radio station in Great Barrington. Tickets are $15, $10 for fulltime students with ID. A limited number of priority-seating $50 tickets are available as well, which will include a post-screening party with the Yes Men at the radio station. The party will be broadcast live in true freewheeling community radio style. To purchase tickets, visit www.mahaiwe.org or phone the Mahaiwe box office at 413-528-0100.

The Yes Men have been called "the Jonathan Swift of the Jackass Generation" by author Naomi Klein. They pose as corporate bigwigs, infiltrate the world of big business, and scandalize unsuspecting audiences in ways that shame the world's biggest corporate criminals. Although fronted by Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonanno, their membership includes hundreds of agents who prefer to remain anonymous—until duty calls. The group first gained international notoriety a decade ago by impersonating World Trade Organization spokesmen on international TV and at business conferences. In 2004, United Artists released a feature documentary about their hijinks (The Yes Men, directed by Chris Smith, Sarah Price, and Dan Olman), which became an instant cult hit, received numerous festival awards, and was distributed theatrically and on television around the globe. Their new film won the Audience Award at the Berkshire International Film Festival and the Berlin Film Festival and was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance.

Founded in 2004, WBCR-LP, 97.7 FM is a volunteer-operated and listener-supported noncommercial community broadcast and Internet radio station in Great Barrington. Each week, WBCR-LP broadcasts over ninety locally-produced or sponsored radio programs, with programmers ranging from elementary school students to retirees; with topics including local community issues, astrology, skateboarding, women's issues, and water preservation and protection; and with live and recorded music ranging from classical to Italian folk to death-metal. In addition, dozens of community volunteers perform the myriad tasks required to maintain the studios and keep the station running. For more information about the station, see www.berkshireradio.org.

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m., and three hours before show times. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.mahaiwe.org or via phone at 413-528-0100.

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington,
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

Those Nuts from Boston

From Lee to Springfield there is a brand new bus. It is white and sleek and boasts of being a "kneeling bus," with a little drawing that shows it's front bumper on the ground. I was reminded of obedient camels, elephants, kneeling so riders can easily mount. Here in the industrial Northeast it is the buses that are kneeling: they are our camels. I have to say the bus did not kneel for me. No doubt its keeper gives a command and then down it will go, when necessary.

From Springfield east, one rides a bus of the familiar old stiff-kneed variety. You want to ride? Better be able to climb a little, bend your own knees. Still, it is a fine ride past shopping centers, over a large river, beside scenic lakes reflecting New England trees and skies. Finally, Boston!

Here one can walk over ancient byways and cobbles, pass directly onto underground camels with no kneeling required. My daughter and I went to an arboretum and climbed a hill. We stood under a huge hickory tree, the ground mounded with years or decades of dropped hulls from hickory nuts. There were nuts, too, and we filled our pockets.

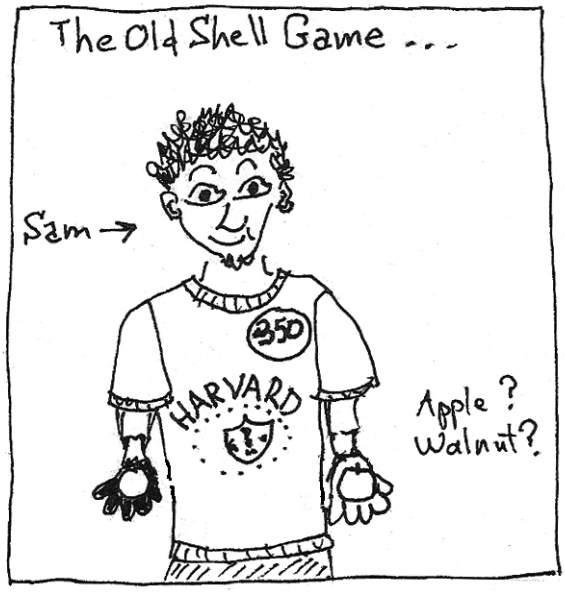
Back on Boston Common something had sprouted in the hours we'd been nutting. There were about fifty little tents, of every bright color, and young folks galore milling about talking to reporters, giving interviews, getting on TV. Here and there a banner told the tale:

Leadership Campaign! End global warming! 100 percent clean energy for Massachusetts by 2020, produced right here in the state!

These were students from 23 different colleges in Massachusetts, kicking off their occupation of the Common and learning lobbying skills for the next day, Monday, when they planned to storm the State House visiting every legislator in teams of three or four, each with talking points. Later that night they were role-playing, critiquing, getting ready. It was dark. A young man named Sam sat down beside me.

"Would you like an apple? They came from Harvard Yard."

I took one. It felt a little dense, a little rough-skinned.



"Maybe this is a pear?" I said. I'd picked up a few Korean pears at the arboretum earlier in the day.

I took a bite.

"Yah!!" It was awful, and it was not a pear. I said to Sam, "This is a walnut!"

"I was told it was an apple," he said, passing the buck.

"It's not. And these hulls will turn black and make a dark brown dye you can use for wool."

Sam was listening to the briefing about lobbying, but he was pulling the hulls off his walnuts (they were actually black walnuts) so he could see the shell of the nut inside. So was I. We had my little flashlight.

By bedtime, my hands were black, or greenish-black, or olivaceous. No amount of scrubbing changed this. The next day I was on the camel for home, thinking of Sam and his colleagues, wondering if he would shake hands with any state reps and what they would think of his walnut hands.

A few days later the dye has worn off except in the nooks and crannies of my hands, bringing out my fingerprints and fortune-telling lines. I feel a bond with Sam, our fortunes. He wants Massachusetts to lead the country, state by state, to clean energy production and use. He and his pals are going to sleep out, on their campuses during the week and back in Boston on Sunday nights, until the bill is signed into law.

No more dirty electricity for us in Massachusetts! We'll make our own homegrown solar, wind, and tidal electricity. And we can grow our own nuts, too. From the kneeling camel to the fellowship of the nut-brown hand, we'll camp out in the cold until we win. I know Sam will learn all sorts of things at Harvard, but out on the Common he is learning to be an active lobbyist in a democracy, also how to tell an apple from a walnut.

— Bonner J. McAllester

American Society of Appraisers ASA

ANTIQUES APPRAISED
David J LeBeau MFA AM
229-3445 djlebeau@verizon.net
Since 1978

del Sol
Solar Hot Water
Solar Electric
Back-up Power Systems
Del Martin
413 528 6580
del176@verizon.net
Green Energy Savings from the Sun!

Time to Talk about Family Land Seminar Nov. 14

Land and family are two topics that often evoke passionate feelings—which can easily lead to the avoidance of important decisions about the future. At the Family Land Conversations seminar on Saturday, November 14, landowners and their family members, land trust staff, board members, foresters, and anyone interacting with landowners are invited to learn valuable strategies for how to encourage healthy communication and trust in making decisions about family lands. The seminar will take place at the Hotel Northampton on King Street in Northampton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a cost of $20 per individual or $50 per family.

The day will focus on several key issues including how to initiate family conversations about the sale or inheritance of your land, how to lay out a plan to keep your land in your family, what types of ownership and management structures work best over the long haul, where to go for help, and which professionals to have on your team. These discussions are particularly pressing considering that the median age of Massachusetts' landowners is in the early 60's, a time when many start thinking about the future of their land.

Olivia Boyce-Abel, a consultant to owners of family lands for over 25 years, is the keynote speaker for the seminar. Ms. Boyce Abel has in-depth experience dealing with property stewardship, multiparty ownership, and dispute resolution, and excels in working with family dynamics to foster creative solutions. This seminar will be a rare opportunity to learn from one of the leading experts in the field about how to manage family communication issues in estate planning and land conservation conversations. The seminar sponsors include UMass Extension, Highland Communities Initiative, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Nature Conservancy. Please join us in learning how to help your family engage in important conversations to create a successful plan for the future of your land.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to download a registration form, visit www.masswoods.net or call Paul Catanzaro at 413-545-4839.

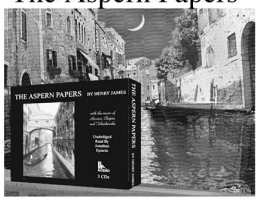
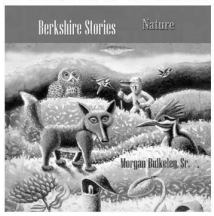
HCI & Trustees of Reservations

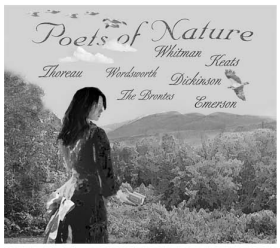
A program of The Trustees of Reservations, the Highland Communities Initiative is a group of neighbors and volunteers working to enhance the quality of life and rural character of our communities. In 2000, Highland residents worked with the Trustees of Reservations to form HCI in order to protect one of New England's quintessential rural landscapes as it braced for the tide of unplanned development sweeping across Massachusetts. Now, HCI connects people, towns, and organizations, giving them the tools and support they need to advocate for conservation and community preservation in their own communities and across the region. To find out more, please visit us at www.highlandcommunities.org.

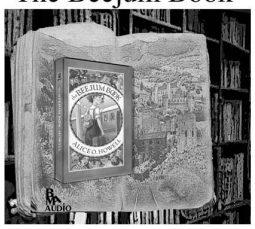
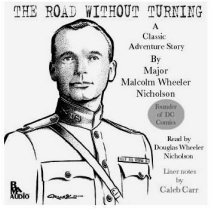
Founded in 1891, The Trustees of Reservations is the nation's oldest regional land trust and nonprofit conservation organization. The Trustees of Reservations welcomes the public to enjoy and experience our nine beautiful properties in the Pioneer Valley and our 100 special places across Massachusetts. To learn more, visit www.thetrustees.org.

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
5 Hammertown Rd., Sandisfield, MA
413-258-4100
www.sandisfieldartscenter.org
❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄
Saturday, December 5th 7pm
(Snowdate: Saturday, December 12th)
The Annual Christmas Extravaganza

Drawing by Dana Yee
Carols, Goodies, story-telling and more!
Adults $5
14 & under Free

Audio for the Refined Ear
Berkshire Media Artists
The Aspern Papers

Berkshire Stories


Poets of Nature


The Beejum Book

The Birth of Pulp


"Epstein does an outstanding job."
– AudioFile
"A Great Listen."
– The Berkshire Eagle
Available at local bookstores, amazon.com, audible.com, bmastudios.com
LITERATURE, PSYCHOLOGY, POETRY
BMASTUDIOS.COM

Orchid Blossom Healing Arts
Classical Acupuncture
Zen Shiatsu

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac.
Licensed in CT and MA
Call for an appointment
413-258-4296

"You Need A Psychiatrist"

My favorite professor in medical school was a crusty old southerner who was disdainful of formality and insisted that we call him Charlie. Charlie was famous for his brilliant diagnostic acumen, but even more so for his homespun wisdom and caustic wit. He had no compunctions about directing his barbs at anyone, so it was no surprise when he aimed one of them at me.

It was late in my fourth and final year. I was weeks away from getting my M.D. degree and I had just aced a final exam, so I was feeling my oats and I guess it showed, because Charlie picked up on it and decided to knock me down a peg.

"So ya did good on that exam, huh? Well, lemme tell ya somethin', Chief. You might have a head full o' theory, but when it comes to the real world you don't know jack shit. So be careful you don't get too high 'n' mighty 'cause some day you're gonna think ya know what's what and it'll turn around and bite ya right in the ass. Matter of fact, when it comes right down to it, ninety percent of what you're gonna be doin' in practice is relievin' pain, movin' bowels, an' talkin' to relatives."

I cracked up, but Charlie's lesson in humility was more than just a funny quip. It came back to haunt me many times, especially in the case of "Susan," a young woman I met during my two year stint in the military.

She sat on the end of a table in a sparsely furnished examination room, holding an oversized gown tightly around her thin body.

"I'm having pain," she said, patting her lower abdomen.

"Okay," I nodded, "tell me more."

"Well, it comes and goes."

"How often?"

"Pretty much every day."

"Any other symptoms?"

"Like what?"

"Is your stomach bothering you?"

"No."

"Appetite okay?"

"Fine."

"Any weight loss?"

"No."

"Bowel problems?"

"No."

"Menstrual cycles okay?"

"Yes."

"Is intercourse painful?"

"No."

"Have you ever been hospitalized for a pelvic infection?"

"No."

"Urinary symptoms? Any history of kidney stones?"

"No."

"Anything like this in your family?"

"No."

"Is the pain more on one side than the other?"

"No, it moves around."

"And on a scale of one to ten, how would you rate it?"

"Sometimes a one, sometimes a ten."

"A ten? You mean it stops you in your tracks?"

"Sometimes."

"And then what?"

She shrugged her shoulders. "It goes away."

"And how about your general health, Susan. Do you have a history of problems?"

"No. Never been sick."

"Any family problems? Husband? Kids?"

"Not a thing. Everyone's healthy and happy."

"Any money problems?"

"No, we're okay."

I studied her face for a moment. Her features were surprisingly composed, making me wonder if she was for real. "Are you worried about this? I mean, are you afraid it's something serious?"

"Well, yeah, I'm worried," she said with a slight edge to her voice. "This kind of thing never happens to me."

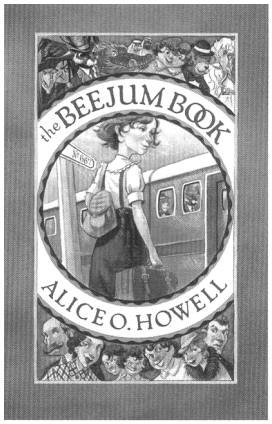
The physical examination was unremarkable. Vital signs, head and neck, extremities, heart, reflexes, all normal.

PETER S. VALLIANOS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
✤
413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-6475
email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey serving your real estate needs including purchase and sales, zoning issues.
Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

New location convenient to Monterey
30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

These wonderful books from Monterey's own Alice O. Howell make perfect Christmas gifts!



The Beejum Book will take its place with ***The Little Princess*** and ***Charlotte's Web*** as a perennial classic.

— Andrew Harvey, author of ***The Direct Path***

Lara's First Christmas is a universal story that will open and enlighten every heart.

Available at the Monterey General Store or your favorite bookstore

Abdomen soft, minimal tenderness, normal bowel sounds, normal pelvic exam, no masses. Lab work was normal as well. Not a clue.

"I can't come up with anything," I told her. "Nothing's really abnormal."

"Well, *something's* wrong," she insisted. "I still have this pain. Can't we do anything else?"

Eventually I ordered virtually every test the hospital had to offer. More blood work, X-rays, consultations with other physicians. All normal.

"Susan, I'm running out of options for you. Let's give it a week, then I'll see you again. Meanwhile, I'd like you to write down all your symptoms, and let me know when they occur."

She agreed, and took me literally. When she returned, she produced a stack of lined paper, four sheets with notations scribbled on every line, both sides, every symptom in the book. Headaches. Joint pains. Back spasms. Frequent urination. Constipation. Chills. Fever. Nausea. Hair loss. Insomnia. Irritability. Blurry vision. Hearing difficulty. Sore feet. And on and on . . .

That convinced me. She was a classic neurotic.

"Susan, this just isn't adding up. I have to think there's a stress factor. Are you sure there's nothing that's upsetting you?"

"It's not stress," she said, her voice rising. "Nothing's wrong with my life."

"But we've gone through everything and nothing's wrong. Look, Susan," I said, trying to sound sympathetic, "sometimes people aren't even aware of what's upsetting them. It can be anything, and it can certainly cause a reaction like yours. It's nothing to be ashamed of. We're all under stress that we take for granted, and then one day it shows up in the form of a physical ailment. At this point I have nothing more to offer you, except that I'd like you to consider seeing a psychiatrist.

She stood up abruptly and shot me an icy stare. "I don't need a psychiatrist!"

Before I could respond, she marched out of the office.

The next day she was back, accompanied by her husband, a career military man with master sergeant stripes and smoldering eyes.

Without introducing himself, he launched into a stream of criticism. "My wife's not crazy," he said, his cadence menacingly even. "She *never* complains. She should have been cured by now. You guys have to figure out what's wrong with her."

"I can understand your concern, Sergeant," I answered evenly, "but believe me, we've examined her head to toe, done X-rays and lab tests, and had other doctors see her as well. There's nothing physically wrong. I think a psychiatrist might be able to help her."

"You're wrong!" he blurted. "There's nothing wrong with her head. The problem is *you*, and all the other quacks around here. This is ridiculous! Why the hell do military people always get second-rate medical care?"

"All right," I countered, managing to maintain my composure. "That's enough. Either you calm down or there'll be a report on your commanding officer's desk about insubordination and insulting an officer."

I had played the trump card. He was seething, but backed off immediately.

Susan then chimed in. "You know what? I'll do it. I'll go see your shrink, then you'll be satisfied. I'm telling you, there's something wrong inside me."

She was right about the psychiatrist's opinion. His report indicated that she was emotionally stable, and he did not think this was a stress reaction. I asked the other doctors who had seen her if they thought she deserved exploratory surgery. Every one of them gave the same response. "Go ahead. You're not going to find anything, but you've done everything else. Maybe

>

Camp Half Moon

"The Best Little Camp in the Berkshires"
Since 1922

Day Camp & Sleepover Camp

528 0940 for Brochure & Video

Boys & Girls *Ages 3yrs ~15yrs*
Heated Pool & Private Skate Park on Beautiful Lake Buel
Safe, Structured, Nurturing Environment with Mature Staff
Riding, Team Sports, Tennis, Sailing, Gymnastics, Crafts, Drama, Waterskiing, Dance, Archery, Tutoring, Rafting & so much more!

www.camphalfmoon.com
P.O. Box 188, Great Barrington, Ma 01230

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
5 Hammertown Rd., Sandisfield, MA
413-258-4100
sandisfieldartscenter.org

THRU NOV. 20TH 7:30PM $5
FILM FRIDAYS
A MOVIE, A GLASS OF WINE AND TALK

NOVEMBER 6TH: SIMON WINCHESTER
Hosts Michael Powell/Emeric Pressburger's
"A CANTERBURY TALE"

NOVEMBER 13TH: DIEGO ONGARO
Hosts Francois Truffaut's
"LOVE ON THE RUN"

NOVEMBER 20TH: BONNER MCALLESTER
Hosts Stanley Kubrick's
"DR. STRANGELOVE or HOW I STOPPED WORRYING AND LOVED THE BOMB"

that will satisfy her." Still, I was reluctant to put her through the risk of surgery, but she was adamant. She wanted an answer.

On the day of the procedure, I nearly called it off. The sight of her being transferred to the operating table gave me a qualm of conscience. How could I allow her to risk her life like this? I approached her and asked if she was sure about going through with it.

"Definitely. I know you don't think there's anything wrong. I just hope you don't find cancer in there. My husband's a wreck about that."

"We're not going to find cancer, Susan. I'm sure of it."

"I don't care. I want this."

I was dumbfounded. "All right, Susan," I said softly, "I'll make sure everything's okay."

The case began uneventfully. I took care to start with a small incision, just enough to have a look without leaving a long, unsightly scar. Finally we entered the abdomen. I inserted a self-retaining retractor and prepared to examine the internal organs. Before doing so I asked the anesthesiologist how our patient was doing. That's when I heard my assistant gasp.

"What's wrong?" I asked.

He didn't answer, but continued to stare. When I looked at the operative field, it took a moment to register. The anatomy was unrecognizable. Actually, worse than that, it looked like a bomb had gone off inside of her. My first thought was, "*Oh my God! How did she live with this?*" I turned to the circulating nurse. "You'd better let her husband know it's going to be a while, but be sure to tell him it's not cancer."

Two hours of dissection later, I determined that the patient had gone through an undiagnosed, chronic appendicitis. The damage was severe, kicking off enough inflammation in the adjacent organs that we had to do a hysterectomy and remove her ovaries as well. After finishing such a case without complications or damaging other organs, I would normally have felt a sense of satisfaction from a job well done, but now I was facing a very unpleasant situation. Not only did I have to explain this to the patient, I had to face her husband as well.

He jumped out of his chair when I walked into the waiting room.

"Just tell me she doesn't have cancer!" he pleaded.

"No, it's definitely not that. She'll be fine, but we had to do a hysterectomy."

"What? . . . Why?"

"As far as I could tell, she must have gone through an undiagnosed case of appendicitis. Sometimes these burn out without rupturing but they can cause a lot of inflammation in the pelvic organs. Her uterus and ovaries were badly scarred, and part of the small bowel was stuck to the back of uterus."

I paused for a moment and then said, "I'm so sorry. There was just no way to diagnose this with tests and X-rays."

During my explanation his expression slowly changed from anxiety to anger. I prepared myself for a well-deserved attack of abuse, and it came, but not the way I thought. Instead of a torrent of expletives, he punished me with silence, a clenched jaw, and a glare of disgust that made me feel lower than a worm.

Seething, he turned his back to me and walked to the door. I stood and watched, thinking that I couldn't possibly feel worse, until he turned and gave me a parting shot.

"*Be sure to let the psychiatrist know he was right*."

I thought of Charlie, my wise old medical school professor who had cautioned me that medical knowledge wouldn't work in every case. It was the first time I had blown a diagnosis this badly, but worse, I sensed it wouldn't be the last.

— David Shifrin

woodland gardens

walkways+ terraces + lighting

colta ives
landscape
design

M.A., M.S., APLD&ASLA Assoc.
413-528-4268
colta@coltaives.com

Beautifying homes in the Berkshires

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING SERVICES

Painting • Staining • Pressure Washing
Repair of Decks, Sheet Rock & Plaster Walls

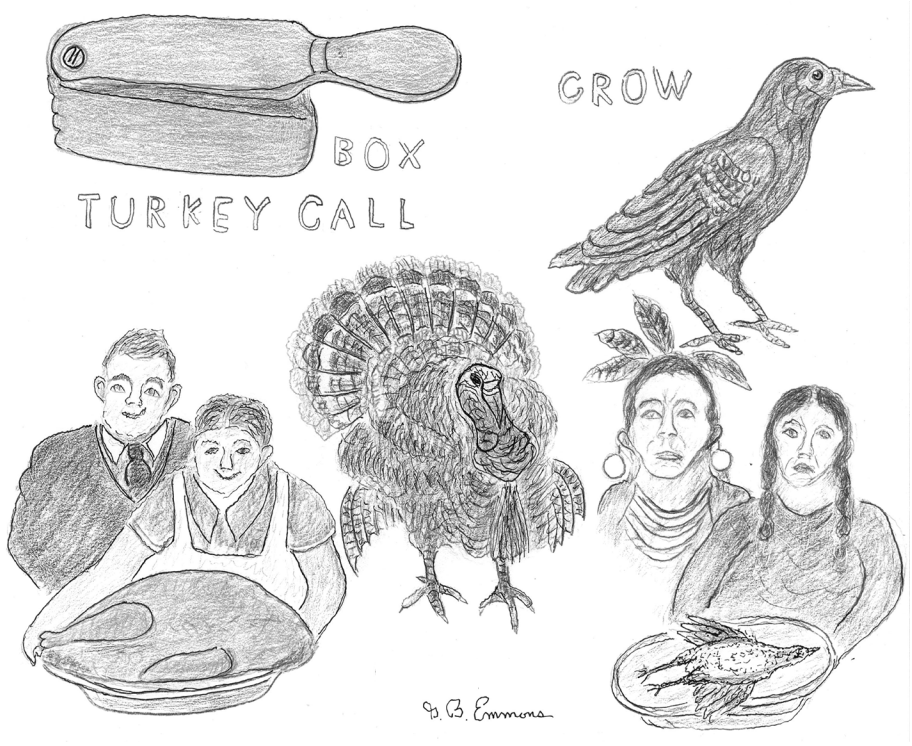
Call now for a prompt, free estimate:

413-269-8948
Len Mandile

QUALITY PAINTING SERVICES

CONTRACTOR LICENSED: MASS. #147903 • CONN. #0622819

Talking Turkey and Eating Crow



Contemplating dinner-table conversation relevant to the traditional family gathering for Thanksgiving, as portrayed in Norman Rockwell's illustration for *The Saturday Evening Post* entitled "Freedom From Want," two metaphors come to mind as historically appropriate.

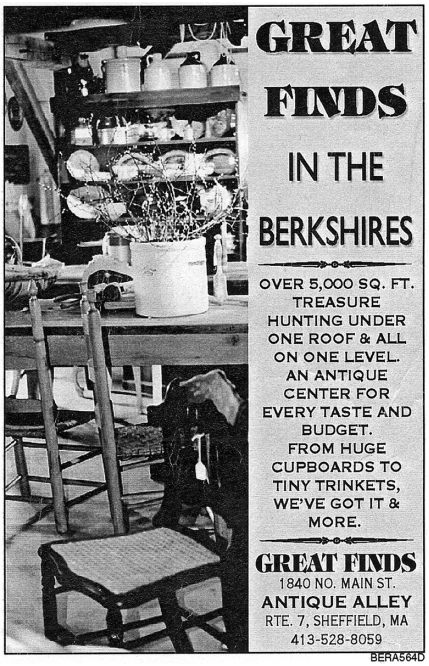
Over many years, "Talking turkey" has come to mean speaking plainly and talking truthfully. According to the American Classics History Web homepage, it comes from an old saw about an Indian and a colonist dividing up the game after hunting together. The Indian always ended up with all the crows, while the colonist claimed all the turkeys. The Indian got fed up and finally started to talk turkey to his companion, perhaps leading to a moral of this tale: that by always talking turkey, one may not have to eat crow.

Having to "eat crow" can come about from talking out of turn, as well as incorrectly, resulting in having to eat one's own words. The term also has a historical origin dating back to the 1872 presidential election when Horace Greeley split from the Republican Party, which he had helped found, and ran for president as the candidate of the new Liberal Republican Party, formed in opposition to the corruption and policies of Ulysses S. Grant's first term. Grant was easily reelected after Greeley's candidacy proved so unpopular that he was called a traitor and his platform was called as unappetizing as a boiled crow.

All summer we had wild turkeys and crows in our yard scratching for seed under our bird feeders Every morning I would scatter extra feed because we enjoyed seeing the crows teaching their fledglings what to eat and the turkeys bringing their poults to the feast prepared for them. The crows were always wary of us observing them, while the turkeys became quite tame, frequently showing up several times a day, Then I tried talking turkey to them with my wooden box turkey call. Although I remained carefully out of sight, after one or two calls they immediately became alarmed and drifted off into the woods. We never see them anymore, perhaps because there is a cornucopia of acorns, nuts, and berries out there this time of the year—but maybe they didn't like what I said.

Although there is a romantic Americana image of bringing in a wild gobbler for Thanksgiving, I have subsequently decided not to try my luck again, content to talk in metaphors, hopeful that for those who would listen they have not become clichés, which is what my imitation sounded like to those that truly spoke the language.

— George B. Emmons



Since 1982

Landscape Design

Stonemasonry

www.montereymasonry.com

Free Film November 21
The Russians Are Coming!

On Saturday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. the 1966 classic Cold-War comedy *The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!* will be shown in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement. A Russian submarine runs aground on a sandbar off the New England coast. Hoping to avoid an international incident which could ignite World War III, the commander (played by Theodore Bikel) sends a small party ashore to find a towboat that could take the sub safely out to sea. It's entertaining, it's New England (filmed in Nantucket and in Northern California!), and it has plenty of messages for us today regarding mob hysteria, vigilante-ism, and the human side of those we might assume are our enemies. Other stars include a young Alan Arkin with a Russian accent as Lt. Rozanov, who takes the landing party ashore, Carl Reiner as an American writer in a lonely beach cottage, Eva Marie Saint as his wife, and a brief glimpse of Michael J. Pollard as a boyish airplane mechanic with a drippy nose and not much else.

This film got three Oscar nominations, including Best Picture. It is essentially a send-up of Cold War paranoia, a reminder of what can happen to our humanity and our intelligence once fear takes hold. Can we New Englanders laugh at ourselves? Come find out.

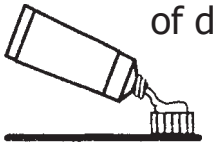
Directed by Norman Jewison, 2 hours, with never a dull moment.

Admission is free. Information: 528-9385 (Bonner McAllester).

Winners in the Monterey Cultural Council's September Monterey photo contest had their photograph taken at the exhibition. (l-r) Ellen Russo,Landscape; Natalie Manzino, Grand Prize; Toby Frank-, Animals; Joel Schick, Old Codger Award. (Photo by Maureen Banner)

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT, INC.
high quality collision repair

When you do business in a small town like Monterey for over twenty years, it leads to a certain way of dealing with people, one far removed from the assembly line atmosphere so prevalant in the automobile industry today. Even though we moved from Monterey to Rt. 7 on the Great Barrington/ Sheffield line several years ago, we have never changed our way of treating customers ... right down to giving you a ride home when you bring your car in, or dropping it off when it's done. We still offer the same warranty we've always given; all our paint and collision work is guaranteed for as long as you own your vehicle—no long list of criteria to meet.

Serving the tri-state Berkshires since 1978.
1939 North Main St., Sheffield, MA 01257
(413) 528-1457, or out of town call 1-800-734-1457

Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Every Friday through November 20: Classic films, 7:30 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. $5. See schedule p. 19.

Saturday, November 7: Otis Library and Museum Pancake Breakfast Benefit, 8–11 a.m., Farmington River Elementary School, Route 8 in Otis.

Sunday, November 8: Sandisfield Historical Society wine and cheese party, 2 to 4 p.m., South Sandisfield Meeting House, Route 183 south of New Marlborough.

Wednesday, November 11: Veterans Day observance, 10:45 a.m., Meetinghouse steps. Town Hall, Library closed.

Thursday, November 12: Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 p.m.

Saturday, November 14: Denise Andrus will present a Thanksgiving story and craft for children, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Tuesday, November 17: Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m.–noon, Town Hall.

Wednesday, November 18: Community Dinner, 6p.m. Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Dr. Ruth Engo will speak on the village of Ngalla, Cameroon, Monterey's sister village. See p. 6.

Saturday, November 21:

The Magnificent Moxie, a Kerry blue terrier, will perform tricks and then be available to be read to by young readers, 10 a.m., Monterey Library.

Free film, *The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!* 7 p.m. Meetinghouse basement. Info 528-9385. See p. 22.

Thursday, November 26: Thanksgiving Day, Town Hall, Library closed.

Friday, November 27: Interdepartmental Secretary's office closed, Yown Hall.

Saturday, November 28:

Colonial Holiday of Thanksgiving and Winter Fundraising Party, 4–7 p.m., Bidwell House. $35. See p. 9.

Monterey Ice Hockey Rink setup, 10 a.m., Firehouse pavilion. Volunteers needed. See p. 8.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Jeff Walker. All dances taught; beginners, children welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Information 528-9385.

Monday, November 30: Adult Reading Group will discuss *Homer and Langley* by E. L. Doctorow, Monterey Library, 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, December 5:

Local artists show their work at Meetinghouse and studios throughout Monterey. See p. 8.

Sandisfield Historical Society Christmas Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sandisfield Firehouse #2, Route 57. Christmas Gifts/items, crafts, tag sale, baked goods, food raffles, and more. Free. For Information, call 258-4520.

The Observer
September 26 – October 25

High temp. (10/22)	69°
Low temp. (10/15)	26°
Avg. high temp.	53.5°
Avg. low temp.	37.1°
Avg. temp.	45.3°
Total rainfall	5.17 in.

Precipitation (including 0.2 in. snow) occurred on 19 days.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montnews@localnet.com.

WEBNASH DESIGN-BUILD

CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE MEETS SUSTAINABLE GREEN TECHNOLOGY

See our new project blog
WWW.WEBNASH.COM

Michael Erkkinen
(413) 644-0215
webnash30@gmail.com

Berkshire Computers
&
Home Entertainment

PC & Mac
Computer Repairs
Computer Upgrades
Virus Removal
Web Design
eBay Auctions
Home Theater

413.822.4317
mike@berkshirecomputers.com
www.berkshirecomputers.com

MONTEREY NEWS
PO Box 9
Monterey, MA 01245-0009

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Monterey, MA
Permit # 7

Change Service Requested

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking
Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds
Celebrating over 30 years in business
528-0864
We Return Your Calls
Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Buying or selling your home in the Berkshires?

CORASHIRE REALTY

Call us
Nancy Dinan
413-528-0014
Deborah D. Mielke
413-528-1871
e-mail: corashire@aol.com

Corashire Realty, est.1966
To see our Monterey Listings please visit
www.corashire.com
Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.

Copyright © Monterey News 2009
No portion of the *Monterey News* may be reproduced without permission.

Editor..... Will Marsh
Asst. Editor ..... Glynis Marsh
Reporter.....Sue Protheroe
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local and visiting artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 4; Maureen Banner, p. 13;
George Emmons, p. 21; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

BIZEN
Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes
備前
On the Cutting Edge
"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10